

REMARKS

The Office Action objected to claims 4-11, 14, and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and if rewritten to overcome any objections or rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

With the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5 and to overcome the objections to claim 1. In the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because its preamble did not correspond to the limitations of the body of the claim. With the present amendment, a limitation has been added to "storing the sum as speech information" so that the body of the claim performs the method indicated in the preamble. Claim 1 was also objected to because the phrase "each of a set of frames" was deemed to be unclear. With the present amendment, this phrase has been changed to "each frame of a set of frames." As amended, claim 1 overcomes the objections raised in the Office Action and now represents claim 5 rewritten in independent form. As such, amended claim 1 is in form for allowance.

Because of the incorporation of the limitation of claim 5 into claim 1, claim 5 has been canceled. In addition, claims 6 and 14 have been amended to change their dependency so that they depend from claim 1 instead of cancelled claim 5.

The Office Action objected to claim 8 because the phrase "the training operations" lacked antecedent basis. With the present amendment, claim 8 has been amended to change the phrase "the training operations" into "training operations."

The Office Action objected to claim 12 because the phrase "the states that form the alignment unit" lacked antecedent basis. With the present amendment, this phrase has been changed to "states that form the alignment unit."

With the amendments to claim 1, 6, 8, 12, and 14, claims 1-4 and 6-14 are in form for allowance.

Claim 15 was objected to because the preamble did not correspond to the limitation in the body of the claim. With the present amendment, claim 15 has been amended to indicate that the decoder in the body of the claim recognizes linguistic units in the speech signal. Thus, the body of claim 15 is now tied to the preamble of claim 15.

In addition, claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 16, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 15 represents claim 16 rewritten in independent form and is therefore in form for allowance. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

The Office Action objected to claim 19 because the phrase "with the states of the word" lacked antecedent basis. With the present amendment, this phrase has been changed to "with states of the word."

With the amendments to claims 15 and 19, claims 15 and 17-19 are now in form for allowance.

None of claims 20-31 were indicated as being allowable. Applicants have cancelled these claims and will be filing a divisional to pursue those claims so that a patent may issue on the allowable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants have added a new claim 32, which represents claim 4 rewritten in independent form with corrections to overcome objections raised in the Office Action. As such, claim 32 is in form for allowance.

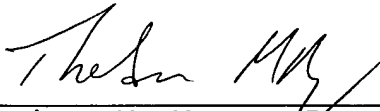
Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-19, and 32 is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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